## 2010 Arbor Day Poster Contest

Educators: please note the changes to this program for 2010\*

Now in its 18th year, the statewide Arbor Day Poster Contest will again be coordinated by the Wisconsin DNR-Forestry Division. The contest is part of a national competition sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF). Over 2,500 fifth graders participated in the 2009 statewide competition.

This year's theme-*Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!*-illustrates the importance of trees in the production and conservation of energy. The engaging lesson plans and hands-on activities *correlate with National Education Standards for fifth grade*.

\*In keeping with the spirit of Earth Day/Arbor Day, NADF has gone paperless for 2010. Contest requirements and lessons can be downloaded for **free** via the DNR website: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/awareness/arborposter.htm.

After completing the lesson plans and activities students are asked to create an original, signed poster that reflects the contest theme. Posters may be created using marker, crayon, watercolor, ink, acrylic or tempura paint. Bright colors are encouraged! No computer generated or glued collages are eligible. Posters must be no larger than 14''x18'' and no smaller than  $8\frac{1}{2}x11''$  The theme must be on the poster, spelled correctly and easy to read.

Only one poster may be submitted per school, so a school contest is necessary. Judging guidelines are included in the online materials.

Awards are given to the top three posters in the state and the first place poster will be forwarded to the national competition hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation. Winning teachers will receive scholarships for professional development — a LEAF clinic and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop. Students and teachers will also be honored at an award ceremony in Madison in spring 2010. In addition, the top 12 posters will be featured on the DNR's Environmental Education for Kids website,  $\it EEK!$ 

Questions? Contact: jacinda.tessmann@wisconsin.gov. The deadline for Wisconsin entries is February 10, 2010.

Contest sponsors include: The Wisconsin Arborist Association; LEAF, Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program; Project Learning Tree; and the Wisconsin Nursery Association.

## Announcing the 21st Annual Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest for Fourth Grade Students

Why Plant Trees?

Each year, the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division encourages fourth grade students across Wisconsin to think and write about our tree and forest resources through the Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest. This year's theme, *Why Plant Trees?*, asks students to write about the importance of tree planting in our communities. Planting trees enhances Wisconsin's natural beauty, provides wildlife habitat, prevents soil erosion, improves air quality, provides shade, conserves valuable energy, and much more. Students are encouraged to write about a personal experience with tree planting or the general importance of a properly-planted tree.

Contest packets will be mailed to fourth grade teachers in late January.

Contest requirements and lessons can also be downloaded for free via the DNR website: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/awareness/arborwriting.htm. The first 100 teachers who enter will receive a copy of R. Bruce Allison's book, If Trees Could Talk: Stories About Wisconsin Trees.

A semi-finalist will be chosen from each CESA District and their essays will appear on the WDNR children's website Environmental Education for Kids, *EEK!* A panel of judges from the Department of Natural Resources will review the 12 semi-finalists and select the top three state winners. The three state winners and their teachers will be recognized at a special celebration in our State Capitol. The top three statewide winners will receive a variety of award prizes, and winning teachers will receive scholarships for professional development — a LEAF clinic and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop, plus additional classroom supplies.

Questions? Contact: genny.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov. The deadline for Wisconsin entries is March 5, 2010.

Contest sponsors include: Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; LEAF, Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program; Project Learning Tree; and the Wisconsin Nursery Association.

## Arbor Day Free Tree Program for Fourth Graders

Arbor Day has been an American tradition since 1872. A pioneer and journalist, J. Sterling Morton, introduced a resolution in Nebraska creating Arbor Day as a day "especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting." Arbor Day has been celebrated in Wisconsin since 1883 and always falls on the last Friday in April.

To encourage the recognition of Arbor Day, the Wisconsin Legislature in 1979 passed a law directing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' state nurseries to provide a free seedling to each fourth grade student in Wisconsin. Each year the state nurseries distribute nearly 75,000 seedlings to fourth grade pupils in Wisconsin for the celebration of Arbor Day.

In early November, a letter is sent to each public and private elementary school explaining how to order the trees. Orders are only accepted from schools, not individuals, and only one order per school or school district. The deadline for ordering seedlings is March 15, 2010.

Arbor Day offers the unique opportunity to educate students on the value and care of trees and forests. Planting trees enhances Wisconsin's natural beauty, provides wildlife habitat, prevents soil erosion, improves air quality, provides shade and conserves valuable energy. As the student's tree grows their knowledge of and respect for the forest environment grows as well.

For additional information, please visit http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Nursery/Order/arborday-order.asp or call (715) 424-3700.



## Plant the Seed for a Green & Healthy School

Join schools across Wisconsin in demonstrating your commitment to a sustainable Earth, stronger communities and healthier learning environments.

The Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools program aims to increase students' awareness of the environmental, health and safety concerns that face our schools, our communities and our Earth, and develop the skills necessary to address these challenges and become active participants in the community.

Becoming a Green & Healthy School is a three-step process:

- 1. In the first step, Pledge, your school forms a Green & Healthy Team and makes a commitment to complete the requirements to become a Green & Healthy School.
- During the second step, Discovery and Inventory, students, teachers and staff conduct self-assessments to identify existing environmentally sound practices and uncover areas in need of improvement. The assessments address facilities, operations, curriculum and community involvement. The completed assessments can help formulate ideas for action.
- 3. As part of the third step, Action and Implementation, your school uses the assessments from step two, along with resources on the Green & Healthy School website, to change behaviors and implement healthy, safe and environmental teaching activities and action projects. After accomplishing the targeted areas of improvement, your school can apply for official Wisconsin Green & Healthy School recognition.

Everyone benefits from a safe, healthy learning environment. Schools participating in the Green & Healthy Schools program experience educational, environmental and economic benefits.

Learn more by visiting: www.dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools



A DNR-DPI Partnership Program



Students, teachers and dignitaries celebrate Arbor Day at the 2009 Special Achievement Ceremony at the State Capitol. First Row (L to R): Second Place Poster, Kesley Secrist, Alma Elementary; First Place Poster, Sumin Yang, Shorewood Hills Elementary; Third Place Writing, Kendra Rosenthal, Coleman Elementary; Second Place Writing, Hannah Feller, South Elementary; First Place Writing, Paul Boesl, Prairie Farm Elementary. Not pictured: Third Place Poster, Rachel Vogel, Valders Middle School.

Second Row (L to R): Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, Executive Assistant, DNR; Kathy Swingen, Wisconsin Nursery Association; Leeann Klein of Valders Middle School; Jeremy Solin, LEAF; Chris Tall, Project Learning Tree; Representative Spencer Black; Senator Fred Risser; Merlin Becker, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Carla Bushmaker of Coleman Elementary; Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester, DNR; Representative Edward Brooks; Dana Westedt of South Elementary; Sandy Hoffman of Prairie Farm Elementary; Cory Gritzmacher, Wisconsin Arborists Association.



Students from Weyauwega Elementary School in Weyauwega, WI sing about the importance of tree planting with songster Ken Lonnquist outside the State Capitol on Arbor Day. The song, "Why Plant Trees?" was later made into a music video for the Department of Natural Resources. You can download song lyrics and check out the music video at: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/awareness/arborwriting.htm



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 267-7494 for more information

Many thanks to all the Wisconsin students and teachers that participated in our statewide Arbor Day contests and the following WDNR staff and colleagues for their contributions to the design and editing of the calendar and project support: Genny Fannucchi, Forest Resource Education and Awareness Specialist; Tessa Jilot, Forestry Educator; Richard Rideout, Urban Forestry Coordinator; Jacinda Tessmann, Forestry Outreach Specialist. Special thanks to UW-Extension Environmental Resource Center, Hartwig Exhibits and Display, Blue Sky Illustrations & Design, Ric Genthe & Associates, Ken Lonnquist, and Weyauwega Elementary School.



Celebrate Arbor Day: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eek/veg/arbor.htm